

ORDINANCE NO. 20080306-038

AN ORDINANCE ENCOURAGING FILMING OF MOVIES, TELEVISION PROGRAMMING, COMMERCIALS, MUSIC VIDEOS AND VIDEO GAMES IN THE GREATER AUSTIN AREA AND WAIVING FACILITY USE AND RENTAL FEES FOR QUALIFYING PROJECTS.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:

PART 1. FINDINGS

The city council finds that:

- (1) Austin was recognized by MovieMaker Magazine as the number one city in which to live, work and make movies in its most recent annual survey;
- (2) production of films, television programming, commercials, music videos and filming of video games in the greater Austin area helps promote the City as a location for film and visual media production and contributes over \$35 million annually in local economic activity;
- (3) film and visual media production crews purchase local goods and services while filming in the greater Austin area; and,
- (4) in celebration of City of Austin's recognition as a destination for filming of movies, television, commercials, music videos and video games, the City of Austin extends the following encouragement to the film and visual media industry for their filming activities.

PART 2. FEE WAIVERS

- (A) Except as provided in Subsection (B), the City Council waives the City's facility use and rental fees for filming of a movie, television program, commercial, music video and video game
- (B) The production company shall pay the City's actual cost for City staff, utilities and security used in assisting the production company.

PART 3. PEACE OFFICERS

- (A) The City shall provide a film or visual media production crew with up to two City of Austin peace officers for traffic control and other public safety issues, including monitoring of vehicles, intermittent traffic control and lane closures, and crowd control, subject to the requirements and limitations of Subsections (B) - (E) and Part 4 (*Credit Required*).
- (B) The City shall provide the Austin peace officers if filming in the greater Austin area is budgeted to spend for local goods and services at least:
 - (1) one million dollars for a feature film and documentary;
 - (2) one million dollars a season for a television production of an episodic series; or,
 - (3) one hundred thousand dollars for a commercial, series of commercials, infomercial, interstitial, music video, or video game.
- (C) The City shall provide Austin peace officers for a maximum of fifteen filming days for each qualifying production in the greater Austin area.
- (D) If the production company requests Austin peace officer services in addition to those described in Subsections (A) and (C), the production company shall pay the City for the actual cost of the services.
- (E) After filming is complete, the production company shall provide the City with a final location expenditure report verifying that actual purchases of local goods and services. If the expenditures fail to meet the minimum thresholds prescribed by Subsection (B), the production crew shall pay the City for the Austin peace officer services provided during the filming in the greater Austin area.

PART 4. CREDIT REQUIRED

Any film or television production receiving a benefit under this ordinance shall place a credit on each film or television episode providing: "Thank you to the City of Austin for its generous support of this production. Filmed on location in Austin, Texas, U.S.A.", or a similar statement.


PART 5. EFFECTIVE DATE

This ordinance takes effect on March 17, 2008.

PASSED AND APPROVED

_____ March 6 _____, 2008

§
§
§



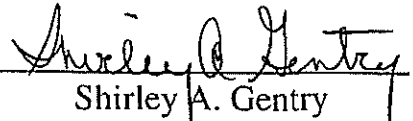
Will Wynn
Mayor

APPROVED:



David Allan Smith
City Attorney

ATTEST:



Shirley A. Gentry
City Clerk